

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1 and 2. These sheets, which include Figs. 1 and 2, replace the original sheets including Figs. 1 and 2. In Figs. 1-2, labels have been added for the boxes.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (2)

REMARKS

The office action of September 21, 2006, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that the drawings are objected to for not having labels in the boxes.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the patent to Anders in view of EP 492,425.

In connection with the Examiner's objection to the drawings, applicant has attached hereto Replacement Sheets containing Figs. 1 and 2, in which labels have been added for the boxes contained in the figures. No new matter has been added by these changes.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the objection to the drawings is overcome and should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the references.

Turning now to the references and particularly to the patent to Anders, it can be seen that this patent discloses a filtering arrangement for thermoplastics materials for screw extruders. The filtering arrangement has a casing that surrounds a cylindrical screening unit. The filter arrangement has an inlet channel, an outlet opening, and a back-flow opening. The width of the back-flow opening can be adjusted. Furthermore, the pressure in the inlet channel is measured. The width of the back-flow opening is adjusted depending upon the measure pressure of the melt.

Although Anders teaches some features similar to the presently claimed invention, there is no specific teaching regarding a feed device for supplying material. Additionally, the present invention has a screen disk, whereas Anders teaches a screen cylinder.

According to the presently claimed invention, it is not the process parameters that are controlled, but instead the process materials that are supplied which are influenced or controlled. In other words, when, based on the detected process parameters and filter specific process data, in spite of the control of the back wash, it can be, for example, that too much or incorrect recycled

plastic granulate or eventually too much or incorrect added fill materials are present as incoming supply material, which can clog the filter. According to the present invention, not only is the function of the filter unit influenced, as is done in the prior art, but in addition the supplied material is controlled with respect to type and metering rate. This means that other recycled plastic granulate or new plastic granulate or the type and/or quantity of added materials is controlled or changed.

This feature of controlling the process materials being supplied is not taught by Anders and is not discussed by the Examiner.

EP 492425 discloses a compact precision extrusion system and method for rubber. In column 1, line 51 through the beginning of column 2, the reference points out that the extrusion systems for rubber operate completely differently from systems for plastic. Thus, rather than provide motivation for combining the references, this reference teaches away from making any combination with Anders. Therefore, one skilled in the art would not combine these references as suggested by the Examiner. However, even if the references are combinable, the combination does not teach the presently claimed invention. There is no teaching by the

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combination of controlling the process material being supplied, at least with respect to type and metering rate, as in the presently claimed invention. Thus, applicant respectfully submits that neither of these references, nor their combination, teach a process and a device for preparing a melt as in the presently claimed invention.

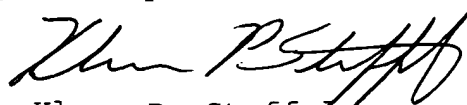
In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over a combination of the above-discussed references is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 22, 2007.

By:

  
Klaus P. Stoffel

Date: January 22, 2007